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INFO NSCE-00 CIAE-00 SSO-00 DODE-00 USIE-00 NSAE-00 SAL-01 SP-02
SS-20 GPM-03 SC-01 NSC-10 RSC-01 L-03 H-02 SAH-03 P-04 INR-07
AID-30 RSR-01 /107 W

P 260820Z OCT 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9659

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 9637

H/W DANANG:S 271 DATED OCT 25 SIGNED KOREN RPTD FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE

DE RUMJIRH 271 2980300
ZNY CCCCC
P 250320Z OCT 67
FM AMCONSUL DANANG
TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY 682
STATE GRNC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DANANG 271

SUBJECT: WINNERS IN QUANG NAM

REF: DANANG 151 DANANG 257
DANANG 228 DANANG 260

1. REFTELS REPORTED ON CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR QUANG NAM'S THREE SEATS OF 153,393 REGISTERED VOTERS 126,461 VOTED.

2. WINNER IN QUANG NAM WAS PHAN THIEP WITH 36,733 VOTES

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OR 29.0 PERCENT. THIEP IS 47 YEARS OLD, A NATIVE OF QUANG TIN PROVINCE AND A BUDDHIST. ALTHOUGH A TEACHER BY PROFESSION, HE HAS FOR MANY YEARS WORKED PRIMARILY AS A VNQDD CADRE. HE HAS PREVIOUSLY HELD POSTS OF DISTRICT CHIEF IN TAM KY AND QUE

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SON DISTRICTS. HE WAS RELEASED FROM POSITION IN TAM KY IN APRIL 1955 BYDIEM GOVERNMENT FOR COMPLICITY IN VNQDD UPRISING AGAINST DIEM. HE WAS IMPRISONED IN THUA THIEN FOR ABOUT ONE YEAR. MORE RECENTLY THIEP HAS BEEN ACTIVELY ASSOCIATED WITH "KY BO" FACTION OF VNQDD OF WHICH HE IS CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER. IN HIS POSITION AS DEPSECGEN FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS, THIEP CONDUCTED MOST OF LIAISON WIQH KY GOVERNMENT DURING STRUGGLE OF 1955 WHICH SAW KY BO LINE UP SOLIDLY ON SIDE OF GVN AGAISNT STRUGGLE. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THIEP ENJOYED GVN AS WELL AS KY BO BACKING. HE PROBABLY HAD CONCERTED BUDDHIST OPPOSITION AS HIGH RANKING KY BO MEMBER, THIEP CAN BE EXPECTED TO WATCH OUT FOR KY BO INTERESTS AND WILL PROBABLY ALSO WORK WITH GVN.

3. SECOND IN RACE WAS PHAN MAT WITH 26,402 VOTES OR 20.9 PERCENT. MAT IS 67, A NATIVE OF QUE SON DISTRICT, QUANG NAM, BUDDHIST AND A TEACHER BY PROFESSION. MAT IS A MEBEMER OF "KY BO" VNQDD AND RAN TOGETHER WITH ANOTHER, LOSING CANDIDATE AND WITH PHAN THIEP. MAT'S VICTORY IS SOMETHING OF SURPRISE, HOWEVER, HE OBVIOUSLY BENEFITED FROM THIEP'S POPULARITY PLUS FACT THAT "KY BO" WAS RELATIVELY UNITED IN SUPPORT OF THREE

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CANDIDATES WHILE PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION, "VHK" FACTION DIVIDED VOTES AMONG 7 CANDIDATES. MAT'S VICTORY WAS NOT EVIDENT UNTIL LAST DISTRICT SENT IN RESULTS. MAT'S HOME DISTRICT QUE SON WENT SOLIDLY FOR MAT, THIEP, AND THIRD CANDIDATE CAPT LUONG NGOC THO PUSHING MAT AHEAD OF OTHER CLOSE CONTENDERS.

4. THIRD IN RACE WAS BUI QUAN SAN WITH 25,464 VOTES OR 20.1 PERCENT. SAN IS 45 LARS OLD, ANCESTOR WORSHIPER, AND A

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NATIVE OF QUANG NAM. UNTIL RECENTLY HE WAS HEAD OF PRU IN QUANG NAM. SUBSEQUENTLY HE HELD SINECURE OF INTELLIGENCE ADVISOR TO PROVINCE CHIEF. UNTIL GA ELECTIONS SAN WAS MEMBER OF KY BO VNQDD AND FIGURED PROMINENTLY IN GROUPS OPPOSITION TO STRUGGLE FIVE. HOWEVER, AS RESULT OF DISAGREEMENTS OVER WHOM TO SUPPORT IN GA ELECTION AND SUBSEQUENT DISPUTES OVER QUANG NAM PARTY LEADERSHIP, SAN BECAME ONE OF THREE PRINCIPAL LEADERS TO BREAK AWAY FROM KY BO AND SET UP OPPOSITION FACTION. IN EARLY 1967 THIS NEW FACTION ALLIED WITH VU HONG KHANH AND AT JUNE 67 CONFERENCE SAN WAS ELECTED A MEMBER OF 18 MAN "VHK" FACTION CENTRAL COMMITTEE. DURING RECENT OPPOSITION ACTIVITIES AGAINST GVN SAN WAS ONE OF SEVERAL CANDIDATES WHO ATTENDED BUDDHIST MEETINGS DENOUNCING NEW CHARTER. AT SAME TIME, QUANG NAM

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VHK FACTION HAS TAKEN DEFINITELY MORE MODERATE LINE TOWARDS OPPOSITION TO GVN AND HAVE NOT BEEN INTERESTED IN CREATING CIVIL DISORDER. PROBABLY INFLUENCING THIS POSITION WAS CONCERN OVER VC ACTIVITY. IN RECENT VC RAID ON HOI AN 5 OF SAN'S 7 CHILDREN WERE KILLED BY VC GRENADE.

5. RUNNERS UP ERE TRUONG DINH NAM WITH 20,000 SAN VOTES RUNNING ON WORKER-PEASANT (CONG-NONG) TICKET AND WITH CVT, CATHOLIC AND PROBABLY SOME VNQDD BACKING AND SUU UNG WITH 18,044 VOTE AND BUDDHIST BACKING. NGO HAI QUANG, SECGEN OF "VHK" VNQDD AND RUNNING ON FARMER-WORKER-SOLDIER TICKET, FINISHED 8TH. APPARENTLY LOCAL ELECTION COMMITTEE STILL MEETING TO DISCUSS ELECTION, ALTHOUGH SUBJECTS UNDER DISCUSSION STILL NOT CLEAR. APPEARS TO BE EITHER SUSPICION OF ILLEGAL PRACTICES BY SAN OR DISCUSSION OF COMPLAINT (DANANG 2601) BY NAM.

KOREN
UNQUOTE. BUNKER

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